

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A butterfly needle assembly comprising:
a needle having a needle hub;
a locking means integral with said needle hub having a tab protruding radially from said needle hub; and
a shield with a distal end and a proximal end having integral wings and a dorsal track extending axially along said shield;
wherein said tab extends through said dorsal track such that when in operation as said needle moves through said shield, the tab travels along the dorsal track to engage a cut-out at the distal end of said dorsal track thereby locking the needle within said shield.
2. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said shield has a thumb rest on said proximal end.
3. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble wings of a butterfly.
4. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble wings of a moth.
5. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble an animal.
6. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble a flower.
7. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble a prehistoric creature.

8. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble a cartoon character.

9. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings resemble a holiday novelty.

10. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings have folded adhesive tabs on the underside of said integral wings.

11. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral wings have adhesive tape on the underside of said integral wings.

12. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein a mechanism facilitates reciprocal movement of said needle with said shield.

13. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said needle irreversibly locks within said shield.

14. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 1, wherein said shield has a flexible portion axially displaced from both said proximal and said distal end.

15. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble wings of a butterfly.

16. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble wings of a moth.

17. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble an animal.

18. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble a flower.

19. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble a prehistoric creature.

20. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble a cartoon character.

21. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings resemble a holiday novelty.

22. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings have folded adhesive tabs on the underside of said integral wings.

23. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said integral wings have adhesive tape on the underside of said integral wings.

24. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein a mechanism facilitates reciprocal movement of said needle with said shield.

25. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said needle irreversibly locks within said shield.

26. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 2, wherein said shield has a flexible portion axially displaced from both said proximal and said distal end.

Claims 27-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A butterfly needle assembly comprising:
a needle having a needle hub with integral wings extending radially from said needle hub;
a locking ~~means~~ mechanism integral with said needle hub having a tab protruding radially from said needle hub in a plane perpendicular to said integral wings; ~~and~~
a shield with a distal end and a proximal end and a dorsal track extending axially along said shield and said shield further having side tracks; and
a cutout extending from the shield at a distal end of the dorsal track,
wherein said tab extends through said dorsal track and said integral wings extend through said side tracks such that when in operation as said needle moves through said shield, the tab travels along the dorsal track to engage a the

cutout at the distal end of said dorsal track thereby locking the needle within said shield.

36. (Original) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said shield has a thumb rest on said proximal end.

37. (Currently Amended) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings ~~resemble~~ are configured to substantially match wings of a butterfly in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.

38. (Currently Amended) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings ~~resemble~~ are configured to substantially match wings of a moth in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.

39. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings resemble an animal.

40. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings resemble a flower.

41. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings resemble a prehistoric creature.

42. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings resemble a cartoon character.

43. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings resemble a holiday novelty.

44. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings have folded adhesive tabs on the underside of said integral wings.

45. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said integral wings have adhesive tape on the underside of said integral wings.

46. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein a mechanism facilitates reciprocal movement of said needle with said shield.

47. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said needle irreversibly locks within said shield.

48. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 35, wherein said shield has a flexible portion axially displaced from both said proximal and said distal end.

49. (Currently Amended) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings ~~resemble~~ are configured to substantially match wings of a butterfly in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.

50. (Currently Amended) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings ~~resemble~~ are configured to substantially match wings of a moth in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.

51. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings resemble an animal.

52. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings resemble a flower.

53. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings resemble a prehistoric creature.

54. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings resemble a cartoon character.

55. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings resemble a holiday novelty.

56. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings have folded adhesive tabs on the underside of said integral wings.

57. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said integral wings have adhesive tape on the underside of said integral wings.

58. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein a mechanism facilitates reciprocal movement of said needle with said shield.

59. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said needle irreversibly locks within said shield.

60. (Withdrawn) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 36, wherein said shield has a flexible portion axially displaced from both said proximal and said distal end.

61. (New) A butterfly needle assembly comprising:
a needle having a needle hub;
a shield with a distal end and a proximal end and a dorsal track extending axially along the shield, the shield be configured to slidably receive the needle;

a cutout extending from the shield at a distal end of the dorsal track;
and

a locking mechanism extending from the needle hub, the locking mechanism comprising a tab extending from the needle hub, the tab extending through said dorsal track, the needle hub being configured to move through the shield between proximal and distal positions, the tab being configured to engage the cutout so as to lock the needle hub and needle relative to the shield.

62. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 61, wherein the tab is configured to engage the cutout so as to lock the needle hub and needle in the distal position

63. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 61, wherein the shield has a thumb rest on said proximal end.

64. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 61, wherein the shield includes side tracks.

65. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 61, further comprising a pair of wings extending from one of the needle hub and the shield.

66. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 65, wherein said shield further includes a pair of side tracks, said wings extending from the needle hub through said side tracks.

67. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 65, wherein said wings are configured to substantially match wings of a butterfly in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.

68. (New) The butterfly needle assembly of claim 65, wherein said wings are configured to substantially match wings of a moth in at least one of shape, design, color, and color pattern.